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A

TREATISE
ON THE
GOUT
AND
RHEUMATISM.

WHEREIN

A METHOD is laid down of relieving
in an eminent Degree those excruciating
Distempers.

By R. JAMES, M. D.



L O N D O N:

Printed for and Sold by T. OSBORNE, in *Gray's-
Inn*, and J. ROBERTS, in *Warwick-Lane*.
M.DCC.XLV.

[Price One Shilling and Six-pence.]



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MDCCLXV.

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T O

Dr. THOMPSON.

S I R,

I AM too well acquainted with your Zeal for the Advancement of Medicinal Knowledge, to believe you expect any Excuse from me for proposing a Method of relieving the Gout, somewhat different from yours, tho', perhaps, calculated to answer the same Intentions. This is, therefore, no Part of my Design: Instead of that, I am to return you, thus publickly, my Thanks, for my Recovery from the most violent of Fevers, attended with purple Eruptions, and a malignant Thrush; which I am abundantly sensible I owe to your Abilities in your Profession, and Care in attending me during the Time I laboured under it.

It is very unusual for Dedicators to censure the Conduct of the Person to whom they dedicate. I must, however, thus far deviate from an established Custom, as to blame you for neglecting to vindicate your Character from some Aspersions that have been thrown upon you; because I think they may interfere with your Interest, however little they may affect your Passions. For tho' the
Zeal

DEDICATION.

Zeal of your Friends is very great, and your Protectors Persons of the highest Rank ; yet Interest, Malice, Caprice, or Error, may insinuate Untruths derogatory to the Reputation I am certain you would wish to have among Men of Honour and Probity. You are sensible that few People are so very malicious, but there are others as weak to believe them, and wicked enough to propagate the Scandal.

The infamous Falsities which have been industriously spread with regard to your Conduct to the late Sir *John Eyles*, should awake your Attention, and excite you to vindicate your self in the most publick manner. For tho' the Family of that worthy Gentleman, to my certain Knowledge, omit no Opportunity of doing you Justice ; yet as 'tis impossible their Influence should extend every where, Malice may forge Circumstances to your Prejudice, and wound you in Whispers, where it may not be in their Power to vindicate your Character.

I am, Sir,

Your most obliged humble Servant,

Southampton-street Covent-Garden,
May 11, 1745.

R. JAMES.



A
 DISSERTATION
 ON THE
 GOUT and RHEUMATISM.



AMONG the many Causes that have retarded the Improvements, which might reasonably be expected to have been made in Physic, in a long Series of Years, perhaps none of the least considerable has been an ill-judged Attachment of its Professors to particular Systems of Theory and Modes of Practice; insomuch that, in a thousand Instances, with which the History of Physic furnishes us, they have treated with Insolence and Contempt those, who have proposed any thing for the general Good of
 B Mankind,

Mankind, if it had the least Appearance of Novelty, or thwarted any commonly received Opinion, however erroneous. Thus the Reputation of many excellent Medicines and Methods of Practice, has been stifled, as it were, in the Cradle, whilst others have, not without Difficulty, overcome an unreasonable Opposition, after the utmost Efforts of the Candid to support them for more than Half a Century. One Example of this we have in the *Peruvian Bark*; and another in Antimony. With respect to the latter, it is remarkable, that after *Basil Valentine* had, by an infinite Number of Experiments, proved, that the internal Use of this Mineral was not only safe, but that it was an excellent Remedy in many obstinate Distempers; and after *Paracelsus*, *Matthiolus*, *Angelus Sala*, and many others, had confirmed his Sentiments, *Grevinus*, however contrary to the Evidence of his Senses, had the Confidence to assert boldly, that Antimony was a most deleterious Poison; and, in 1566, the medicinal Use of Antimony was not only prohibited by the Faculty of Physic at *Paris*, but even by a Decree of the Parliament. In 1609, *Paulmier* was expelled the same Faculty, for having prescrib'd it; and these Prejudices continued till 1666, when
the

the Physicians were permitted to use it in their Practice.

This unaccountable Prejudice of Physicians against any Novelty, however rational or well attested, probably gave the Hint to the celebrated *Moliere*, when he introduced a ridiculous Physician in one of his Comedies, of representing him as applauding himself for having sustained a Thesis against the modern Discovery of the Circulation of the Blood.

It is our peculiar Happiness to live in an Age of more Candour, wherein Physicians are generally too well bred to contradict by way of Insult, and too rational to deny the Evidence of their Senses. And, if this should not happen to be the Case, Mankind are, in our Days, for the most Part inclined to form Judgments for themselves, and to suspect unreasonable Opposition to proceed either from Stupidity or Wickedness.

This Disposition in the Gentlemen of the Faculty, and of Mankind in general, has encouraged me to lay before the Public what I have read, what I have heard, and what I know from my own Experience, relative to a particular Method of Treating the least resistible of all Distempers, the Gout. Nor is this the only Motive ; for I esteem it inde-

spensibly my Duty, in the first Place; and, in the next, as the Declarations I have frequently made in Public, That I had Reason to hope and believe, that the Gout was, at least, in an high Degree, relievable, have been sometimes treated as chimerical, I thought it incumbent upon me to make public the Reasons for my Assertions, in order to avoid the Reproach of Singularity, Empiricism, or an ill-grounded Affectation of Novelty.

With respect to what I have read upon this Subject, the many well-attested Histories of Cures performed by *Cneuffelius* are, in the first Place, worthy of Notice. This Physician was the Son of a Surgeon of *Bautzen* in *Lusatia*. He is represented to have been perfectly well acquainted with the *Latin* and *Greek* medicinal Writers, and had the Reputation of being an excellent Chymist. He took the Degree of Doctor in Physic at *Straßburgh*; and there maintained in a Thesis, that the Gout was curable, contrary to the Sentiments of all preceding Physicians. This excited an almost universal Clamour against him; and he was branded, as is usual, with the infamous Titles of Impostor and Quack by his Contemporaries. This, however, did not prevent his being made principal Physician to

the Gout and Rheumatism. 5

Uladislaus IV. King of *Poland*, whom he is said to have cured of a very severe Gout. The most circumstantial Account we have of the Cures performed by *Cneuffelius*, is in a Letter to the celebrated *De Laet* from *Christopher Arcissewski*, a *Polander* by Birth, but employed in *Brasil* in the Posts of Superintendant of the Ordnance, and Colonel of a Regiment; who, sensible of the Value of *Cneuffelius's* Medicines, and touched with a grateful Sense of the Service his Physician had done him, gives the following Account of his Case; which, tho' desperate in itself, and complicated with various terrible Disorders, was nevertheless totally cured by *Cneuffelius*.

Arcissewski was naturally of a valetudinary Habit, which was still rendered worse by the Fatigues of three Expeditions into *America*, in which he passed the Equator six Times. But in the Year 1639, returning from *Brasil* in the forty-seventh Year of his Age, he was seized with more frequent Catarrhs, and a more violent Cough than he had ever laboured under before. To these were added severe Pains, arising from the Stone in the Kidneys. But this was not the Whole of his Misfortune; for, in 1640, he was seized with the Gout, which for that Year,

6 *A* DISSERTATION *on*

Year was tolerable ; but, in 1641, very violent, and in 1642 so racking, that he could neither move his Legs, nor turn himself in Bed, without the Assistance of a Servant.

As it is natural to seek the Removal of Pain, this Gentleman, with great Care and Expence, consulted the best Physicians in *Holland*, who prescribed uncommon Quantities of Pills, Potions, sudorific Draughts, and antiscorbutic Decoctions, according as each thought his Case required. But all these were of little or no Service ; for during his Paroxysms he was totally deprived of Strength, and his Appetite was almost entirely lost. He was, also, afflicted with unseemly and continual œdematous Swellings of the Feet, and with a perpetual ringing Noise in his Ears ; and even when he was in his most easy State, and free from the Paroxysms, he was reduced so low that he could not rise from the Table, nor go up and down Stairs, but very slowly, and with the greatest Uneasiness.

In this Condition, he accidentally met with *Cneuffelius*, whose Advice he forthwith asked, because he knew that he had cured his Sovereign the King of *Poland* of a most violent Gout. *Cneuffelius* gave him the proper Directions,

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Directions, and the Medicine he used in arthritic Cases, which he began to take on the 24th of *July* 1642, and had his Cure completed in a Year's Time.

But, in order to give all possible Information relating to his Case, *Arcissewski* has given us a very circumstantial Detail of the Effects the Medicine had upon him, and of the various States he was in during its Use.

For the first three Months, he was troubled with a Pain of the Throat and Fauces, which were irritated by the Acidity of his Potions. But Use removed this Inconvenience.

During the time of taking this Medicine, the various Excretions, from which the Properties of Medicines may be, in some measure, determined, were as follows :

His Stools, from the 24th of *July* 1642, to the 12th of *March* 1643, were of foreign and unnatural Colours; for about the first eight Weeks, they were blacker than Ink; for about six Weeks after, they were of a blackish-green, tho' still of a deep-black Cast. Afterwards this black Colour daily tended more and more to what we commonly call a sea-green. But his Stools sometimes resumed their black Colour, when his most acid Potions

tions were exhibited ; for the Doctor, in a Letter to his Patient, informed him, that he interposed demulcent with acrid Potions, that the Humours of the Body might not, like the Waters in a narrow Creek of the Sea, be continually agitated upwards and downwards, but, at proper Intervals, be soothed and composed. This Change of the Colour of the Excrements, the Patient for a long time ascribed to Vitriol alone, the manifest Taste of which he perceived in his Potions ; for he observed, that those Persons had black Stools, who used the vitriolic Waters in *Germany*, *Hungary*, and particularly at the *Spaw* : But as the Patient's Excrements afterwards lost their preternatural Colour whilst he persisted in the Use of the same Potion, he concluded that something lodg'd in his Body and Intestines contributed to the unusual Colour of his Stools. At last, in thirty-two Weeks time, his Stools resum'd their natural yellow Colour.

He observ'd at the same time, that his Stools had not their natural fetid Smell, but rather that of Gooses Dung, so long as their preternatural Colour continued ; that at the Time they were of a blackish green Colour, their Smell generally resembled that of Musk, and that

that they had a kind of fishy Smell, when his Body was very soluble and his Stools liquid like those of a Person to whom a Purge has been exhibited.

As to the Consistence of his Stools, so long as the preternatural Colour remain'd, they were generally harder and smaller in Quantity than usual, tho' he was never constive, but had at least one Stool a Day. He also, observ'd that to his Excrements, when hard, there adher'd a kind of yellow Mucilage here and there, which was not ting'd with the common Blackness.

As for the liquid Stools resembling those generally produced by Purges, these very rarely happen'd during the use of *Cneuffelius's* Potion, and were accurately observ'd by the Patient, because they seem'd to evince the remarkable Efficacy of the Medicine. Accordingly he tells us, that on the 2d of *December* 1642, when he was seiz'd with a violent and sudden Stimulus to go to Stool, he, together with his usual small Quantity of black and indurated Fæces, evacuated two or three Ounces of a greyish or cineritious Colour, like that discharg'd in *Diarrhæas*. The Patient at first imagin'd that this proceeded from a Corrosion of his Viscera, by the Strength

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of

of his Potion, which at that time was more acrid than usual, but as he afterwards found no such Effect, he concluded that the Liquor had been evacuated from his Spleen. On the 25th of *November* 1642, after he had in the Morning discharg'd many nidorous Eructions, tasting of roasted Eggs, which by the Patient were look'd upon as his usual Signs of a bad Concoction, he was seiz'd with a copious Diarrhæa, the Matter of which was of a greyish green Colour. Between the Rising of the Sun and Noon he discharg'd five liquid Stools with great Vehemence and very copious : But this Diarrhæa ceas'd directly. But it was remarkable, that on this Day, tho' he evacuated a large Quantity of Humours by Stool, Sweat, Expectoration, and Urine, yet no Loss of Strength succeeded. On the 18th of *February* 1643, about the New Moon, Nature and the Medicine again produc'd the Purgings, which had ceas'd for some time, but which then proceeded in the following Manner. The Night before, the Patient observ'd some small Pains in his left Side, and Punctures in his Spleen, which next Day were succeeded by four liquid Stools of a greyish Colour. On the 22d of the same Month, he had two Stools of a like Nature ; and on the

the Gout and Rheumatism. I I

24th, three. On these Days he had not his usual Discharge of hard Fæces. On the first of *March* 1643, tho' he had supp'd very sparingly, yet in the Night-time he was troubled with Eructations, which smell'd of Crudities ; and next Day he had four copious liquid Stools of a greyish green Colour. On the 3d of the same Month, he was troubled with crude Eructations, which next Day were succeeded by five copious liquid Stools, of a greyish green Colour, and discharg'd with much Noise and Wind. After Dinner he had a sixth Stool which was more intensely green, and fill'd the whole Room with a Smell resembling that of putrid Fish. On the 4th of *March* the like happen'd to him. On the 5th of *March* he had his usual Discharge of hard Fæces ; but on the 6th had five large liquid Stools of a greyish Colour ; the first four of which approach'd somewhat to their natural yellow Colour, but the fifth was of a greenish Colour or like that of the Spleen. On the 7th 8th and 9th he had each Day one liquid Stool, but of a natural yellow Colour, and was afflicted with Flatulencies. On the 10th in the Morning he had five liquid Stools, the first three of which were of a natural yellow Colour, but the other two of a greyish

green Cast. After Dinner he had a 6th Stool, of a liquid Consistence, of a pale green Colour, and of a disagreeable Smell, resembling that of putrid Fish. But the acid Eructions remaining after this Course of Purging, indicated that there were still more Sordes lodg'd in his Body. On the 11th of *March* from Midnight to Noon this spontaneous Purging continued, and the Patient had eight liquid Stools, not of a greyish green, but only of a greyish Colour. On the 12th of *March* in the Morning he had one Stool of a moderate Consistence and of a natural yellow Colour, and towards the Evening he had another of the like kind. After this the preternatural Colour never appear'd, and the Purging ceas'd spontaneously.

During the rest of the Cure, that is, from 13th of *March* to the last of *July*, his Stools remain'd in their natural Colour and Condition ; and his Body continuing always soluble, he had every Day two, or at least one, natural Stool.

As for his Urine, he tells us that *Cneuffelius's* Medicine generally produc'd a more copious Discharge in others than in himself, by which means it evacuated the principal Part of the dissolv'd Tartar, as *Timmermannus*, whose
Case

Case shall afterwards be related, observ'd in himself. But in our present Patient this did not happen ; or if it did, it was in a very small Degree as he conjectures, because he sweated copiously. Whilst he was under the *Galenic* Regimen, and before he us'd *Cneuffelius's* Potion, his Urine was copious, thin, and watery ; but during the Use of that Medicine his Urine was higher colour'd than it had been for many Years before ; tho' sometimes he had a copious Discharge of limpid Urine. Besides, he had no Corrosions, Itching, or Tittillations in his Urinary Passages, such as those generally produc'd in others by the dissolv'd saline Tartar. Besides the Sediment, there also appear'd Particles floating in the lower Part of the Urine. Thus if in a Morning his Urine was receiv'd into a Glass, it was separated, as it were, into an inferior and superior Part, the latter of which was generally clear and well colour'd, whilst the former, besides the Sediment adhering to the Bottom, had always something turbid. In the Sediment itself there was generally a large Quantity of argillaceous Slime, which *Cneuffelius* generally us'd to call *Bolar Tartar*. As during his *Galenic* Regimen, so also under that of *Cneuffelius*, there appear'd in his Urine many red

Grains

Grains of Sand, and sometimes whitish, tho' very rarely. During the whole of his Cure his Urine was generally frothy.

Before he began the Use of *Cneuffellius's* Potion, he spontaneously sweated copiously every Evening, partly, as he tells us, from a natural Inclination to that Evacuation, and perhaps from the liberal Use of Sudorific Decoctions under the *Galenic* Regimen. His Sweats continued under the Use of *Cneuffellius's* Medicine, so that for five Months successively he sweated profusely. As the *Doctor* did not require these Sweats, so the Patient neglected them, and finding himself weaken'd by them, began designedly to prevent them towards the last of *December*. Besides, his Sweats began to be accompanied with a new Symptom ; for every Sweat, when terminating, excited certain Heats about his Breast, which were so intense that they seem'd as if they would burn the Skin. During the rest of the Months, tho' the copious Sweats so often check'd, at last ceas'd, yet a certain Moistness every Evening appear'd on his Skin, till the Summer Heats coming on, the profuse Sweats again appear'd, and lasted till the Cure was compleated.

Arcisjewski, long before the first Attack of the *Gout*, had an Issue made on each Leg.
These

These, not only during two Years under the *Galenical* Regimen, but also during the succeeding Year under the *Cneuffelian* Cure, discharg'd no Matter at all, unless small Balls of recent Orris Root were put into them, upon which it was suspected that the Orris Root, by a peculiar Quality, attracted more Humours than ought to be convey'd to the Parts. Whilst the Issues were in this Condition, a dangerous Symptom happen'd to that of the right Leg under the *Cneuffelian* Cure, in the Month of *December* 1642, for this Issue beginning on the 9th of that Month to have fungous Flesh form'd about it, became so much ulcerated, that on the 29th in the Morning an hundred and thirty two Drops of Pus were spontaneously discharg'd from it; and in the Evening an hundred and sixty seven; afterwards the Quantity of Pus was diminish'd, till on the 4th of *January* 1643, this Issue was again restor'd to its former State. The *Galenic* Physicians being call'd, told him, that this had happen'd on account of his neglecting his usual Purges, and advis'd him to purge several Times, but he refus'd to comply with their Orders for fear of disturbing the Operation of the *Cneuffelian* Medicine, which had prov'd so beneficial to him. The same Issue
had

had been frequently exulcerated before, when he was, under the Galenical Regimen, purg'd every Week, and had not begun to use the *Cneuffelian* Medicine. He never after put a Ball of Orris Root in the Issue, nor did the Exulceration return ; but as it discharg'd nothing without the Orris Root he judg'd it useles, and for that Reason clos'd it up ; so that on the 21st of June 1643, a Cicatrix was form'd upon it.

The Patient during the whole of the Cure, eat promiscuously Fat, Fish, Cheese, Preparations of Milk, salted and smoak'd Flesh, only observing not to overload his Stomach ; tho' he confesses that in Consequence of his keen Appetite, he sometimes transgress'd in this Respect, but never perceiv'd any Indigestion or Pain of the Stomach. For Drink he us'd common Ale and Wine indifferently, drinking generally at each Meal three or four Glässes of French Wine.

The Effects the *Cneuffelian* Medicine had on this Patient are to be estimated and judg'd of by a distinct and separate Examination of the Complaints he labour'd under, and by the succeeding Vigourof his Body and Change of his Blood.

As for his Gout, then, in the first three Months, that is *August, September* and *October*, of 1642. he thought he found himself greatly reliev'd by the Medicine.

In the mean time, besides his usual Arthritic Symptoms, he was attack'd with others of a new kind ; for on the 20th of *August* 1642, the Calfs of his Legs, together with the Tendons between them and the Heels, became intolerably painful. Immediately after this Pain there appear'd in the Tendons below the Calf of his left Leg, a certain hard Tumour, which however, without Uñction, or any other Remedy, disappear'd on the fourth Day, and return'd no more.

About eight Days after the Disappearance of this Tumour, he was afflicted with an acrid and painful Defluxion of Humours on the Joint of his Jaw-bone on the left Side ; and tho' this Defluxion was accompanied with no Tumour, yet in one Day's time it render'd him incapable of opening his Mouth, or eating any Aliments. The Pain was a few Days after remov'd, tho' some Remains of the Defluxion were left for a long time after ; and on the 14th and 26th of *December*, the Pain of the same Jaw return'd.

The anterior Muscles running along the Breast, Ribs, and Sides, as also the posterior descending from the Scapulæ along the Back, were frequently seiz'd with a certain obtuse Pain and Weariness.

The *Doctor* happening before to see *Ar-cisserwski* at the *Hague*, told him, that his Nodes about his Wrists would be cur'd with greater Difficulty than all his other Arthritic Symptoms. However, during the first three Months in which he us'd the *Cneuffelian* Medicine, these Nodes were so much lessen'd, that only small Marks of them remain'd; tho' during these three Months he had not anointed them with the Liquor given him by the *Doctor* for that Purpose. Defluxions, however, afterwards happening on the Wrist, these Knots at different times became tumid and again subsided.

In the Month of *November* the Patient was again afflicted, and tho' not so violently as before, yet in such a manner as to confine him to his Room. The acute Pains were indeed absent; but an obtuse Pain for three Months succeeding, seiz'd almost all the Parts of the Body, as his Muscles, Joints, Hands, Feet, Knees, Neck and Loins. Being as it were bruise'd and contus'd all over the Body,
he

he could not, without the greatest Difficulty either take off his Hat, rise from his Seat, walk or squeeze any thing strongly with his Fingers. This the Patient thought might, in some Measure, be owing to some Intemperature of the Weather, (for that Year there was no Winter in *Holland*) but much more to the Efficacy of the Medicine pervading all the Parts of the Body.

In 1643, on the 29th, 30th and 31st of *January*, a large Quantity of small red Pustules appear'd on all the Space between his Heels and the Calfs of his Legs ; but these disappear'd in a few Days.

In the beginning of *February* 1643, he observ'd every where on both Hands, as also in other Parts of the Body, hard and cartilaginous Tumours here and there, arising on his Joints. These Tumours did not adhere to the Bone, but were form'd in the Flesh under the Skin. They were generally as large as a Pea, and sometimes as large as a Bean. They did not however, continue long, but for the most Part disappear'd in four Days time. The Appearance and Disappearance of similar Tumours, which were only seiz'd with an obtuse Pain when press'd, continu'd for some time after.

First in *February*, and afterwards about the middle of *March* in 1643, it happen'd, that the middle Finger of his left Hand, was suddenly contracted in such a manner, that he could by no means extend it. When he let it alone, it was not painful, but when he endeavour'd with his other Hand to extend it, he felt such an acute Pain, that he was oblig'd to desist. After three Days were expir'd, it was again suddenly extended without any Endeavour of the Patient, so as to leave neither any Mark of the Symptom, nor any Degree of Pain. The same afterwards happen'd to the middle Fingers of both Hands, whilst the other Fingers were not afflicted with any such Symptom.

In the Months of *May*, *June* and *July* in 1643, he had arthritic Paroxysms, but so small and inconsiderable, that they did not confine him from long Journeys, walking Exercise, or any other Action. His Feet now seem'd to have recover'd their perfect Strength. On the 24th of *July* 1643, which was just a Year after he began to use the *Cneuffelian* Medicine, he about break of Day set out with two Companions as Witnesses of his singular Relief, and with them walk'd on Foot from the *Hague* to *Leiden*,
before

before seven in the Morning, where having remain'd some time, he return'd to the *Hague*, about Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon. So that in less than four Hours time he walk'd three *Dutch* Miles, in a very sandy deep Road, with Boots and Spurs on, and his Cloaths soak'd and weighty with Rain ; Circumstances which render'd the Journey more difficult, than it would otherwise have been. During the whole of this Journey, he neither rested himself, nor sat down, but perform'd it easily, and without sweating : Nor, as he tells us, was he so wearied but he could have undertaken the same Journey over again, and would have done it for the sake of the *Doctor*, tho' he was then above Fifty Years of Age, had not his Companions dissuaded him from it, by putting him in Mind of the Issue in his right Leg, which was first cicatriz'd on the 21st of *June*, and had before frequently prov'd uneasy to him, on the slightest Cause. On his Return to the *Hague*, he perceiv'd such a Weariness in his Legs, as other Men feel after a Journey, but next Day none all, so that his Legs were as vigorous as if he had not walk'd the Day before. Smaller Journeys, such as from the *Hague* to *Delft*, and other Parts a Mile distant,

stant, he perform'd with Pleasure in order to try the Strength and Soundness of his Legs.

His Hands were still somewhat, tho' gently, afflicted with the Gout; and he was surpriz'd, without any manifest Cause, to find them, as it were, half lame. But he says, that if *Cneuffelius* had been present to judge of the State of his Health, he was confident he should have obtain'd a perfect Cure.

His Catarrhs, which under the *Galenical* Regimen were very violent, were not by far so troublesome during his Use of the *Cneuffelian* Medicine, for he had only two considerable ones during the whole of the Cure. The first afflicted him with a severe Cough, on the 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th of *November*. But this he supposes was partly owing to Anxiety of Mind, and partly to his travelling from the *Hague* to *Amsterdam*, in a cold and rainy Night, with thin Cloaths on.

That he might the more punctually observe the Orders of the *Doctor*, who said that Tobacco irritated, and stimulated to Defluations, he laid aside the Use of it on the 5th of *November* 1642; notwithstanding which he was afterwards afflicted with another Catarrh on the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th Days of *January*. But he thought
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this was brought on, because that Year there was no Winter in *Holland*, in Consequence of which Catarrhs raged greatly among the common People.

The Noise in his Head, and ringing of his Ears, which under the *Galenical* Regimen never ceas'd, were totally remov'd under the *Cneuffelian* Regimen ; as also the œdematous Swelling of his Feet.

As for his Nephritic Symptoms, these were totally remov'd in the beginning of the Cure, so that during thirteen Weeks, he could, when he had a Mind, lie freely on his Back, which, before the *Cneuffelian* Regimen was undertaken, he could not do, on account of the Pain in his Kidneys.

On the 23d of *October* 1642, he was suddenly seiz'd with a severe Nephritic Paroxysm in his right Kidney ; but the Pain was totally remov'd in eighteen Hours. On this Occasion he imagin'd, that a large Stone obstructing the Orifice of the Ureter, and not finding a free Passage, had fallen back into the Cavity of the Kidney, where it produc'd no Pain.

On the 6th of *April* 1643, he had another Nephritic Paroxysm. This consisted in an obtuse Pain in the Kidneys ; and on the Day he

was afflicted with it, his Urine was somewhat bloody. From that time, till *April* 12th, 1643, his Urine continued turbid and nephritic.

On the 13th of *June* 1643, he eat a large Quantity of Sparrow-grafs for Supper, in order to discover, whether, after the *Cneuf-felian* Cure, a great Number of Stones remain'd in his Kidneys. But next Day his nephritic Symptoms appear'd with great Pain, and with his Urine, he discharg'd not only a great deal of Sand, but, also, some friable Stones of the bulk of red Pepper. In order to avoid any further Calamity attending these Symptoms, he at two Doses took four Ounces of *Fernelius's* Syrup of Marshmallows, in order to soften and relax the Ureters and Urinary Passages, for the more easy Discharge of the Stones ; and this Medicine he imagin'd was of great Service to him.

Not only under the *Galenical* Regimen, but also, during the whole of the *Cneuffelian* Process, many red Particles of Sand appear'd in his Urine, and sometimes whitish Particles, tho' very rarely.

Arcissewski was from his Infancy subject to a copious Spitting, which, for sixteen Years past, had been accompanied with a Cough, which

after he had us'd the *Cneuffelian* Medicine for three Weeks, this Cough totally ceas'd, but return'd on the seventh Week of the Cure. A few Weeks after, this Cough was remov'd, and in a few Weeks more return'd. And at last, in the middle of *February* 1643, it became more violent, and lasted till the Summer Heats came on ; so that if he supp'd at 9 o'Clock at Night, he was forc'd to cough, and expectorate at two in the Morning. In these Nocturnal Coughs, he observ'd more evidently than in the Day-time, a certain Defluxion dropping almost insensibly from his Head, and which suddenly began and ended with the Cough ; for when the Cough was over, he had a free Respiration both from the Fauces and Nostrils.

If he din'd at One o'Clock in the Afternoon, he was oblig'd to cough and expectorate at seven in the Evening, his usual pituitous Spitting not intermitting during the whole Day ; but both these Symptoms were much less troublesome than before. Sometimes, tho' rarely, the Nocturnal Cough chang'd its Period, and did not seize him, till the Morning when he arose. But at last the Cough was totally remov'd from the middle of *June* till the last of *July*.

His *Hypochondriac* Melancholy, before very familiar and uneasy to him, was by the *Cneuffelian* Method totally remov'd. His Habit of Body became good, and, as he himself tells us, he expected it would still become better. His Complexion was render'd better colour'd, and his Countenance was more brisk and chearful, than it had been for many Years before ; his Appetite and Digestion were also good.

A Judgment of his State may be also form'd from the Condition of his Blood ; for tho' *Cneuffelius* had prohibited Venesection, except there was an absolute Necessity for it, yet he being accusom'd to it, was afraid to desist suddenly from it, and after the Autumnal Equinox, the last of *September* 1642, when he had us'd the *Cneuffelian* Medicine for nine Weeks, he had eight Ounces of Blood taken from his right Arm, not venturing upon more, because of the *Doct̃or's* Orders. He was induc'd to this by the Return of his Cough, after it had ceas'd some Weeks, by his turbulent and uneasy Sleep, and by his more frequent Arthritic Paroxysms, all which he imputed to the Neglect of his usual Venesection. The Blood tho' not good, was yet much better than it was sometime before.

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It had, contrary to what was before taken from him, a sufficient Quantity of Serum, but of a more bilious Nature. On its Surface was a certain condens'd firm Glue, as tough as the Skin. This Glue, when divided, had immediately under it a small Quantity of florid Blood, and all the rest to the Bottom was thick, black, and Melancholic, tho' not so bad as formerly; for before the *Cneuffelian* Cure, it had some of the Signs of Putrefaction, but now none at all.

On the 2d of *May* 1643, desirous to know the State of his Blood, after a longer Use of the *Cneuffelian* Medicine, he from his Arm, took eight Ounces of Blood, which was far better, and more laudable than before. This Blood was receiv'd in three Vessels: On the Surface of that receiv'd in the first Vessel, there was still a Glue, or pituitous Pellicle of a somewhat greyish Colour, but not in such a large Quantity as before. On the Surface of the Blood, in the second Vessel, there was a small Remainder of such a Pellicle. But the Blood in the third, had no such Thing. Besides, the upper Part of the Blood was florid, and the lower Part towards the bottom by no means so black as before, but of a laudable Redness.

But *Arcissewski* not only felt the happy Effects of the *Cneuffelian* Medicine himself, but was also astonish'd at them in others ; for he gives us the Histories of the Cures of two Gentlemen both worse than himself, but both perfectly cur'd by the same Medicine. The one is *Vincentius Isselstenius*, at that Time a General of Horse, and Governor of *Orsoy*, a Man of fifty four Years of Age, unmarried, and for that Reason, in his Opinion the more easily cur'd. This Patient was, in five Months Time, so effectually cur'd of his Gout by the *Cneuffelian* Medicine, that he could without any Trouble walk, ride, and perform the several Duties of his Office, either on Foot, or on Horseback ; and tho' for a short Time after, he had slight Paroxysms of his Disorder, yet he soon became so sound, robust, and vigorous, that he could not have wish'd for a more perfect State of Health. The Perfection of the *Cneuffelian* Medicine is the more conspicuous in this Patient, because he was soon after expos'd to the most terrible Fatigue and Hardships, without suffering either a Relapse, or the smallest Inconvenience from them ; for the Prince of *Orange*, pitching his Camp in *Flanders*, detached our present Patient to *Orsoy* with a

Body

Body of Cavalry, in order to prevent the Incursions apprehended from the Horse of the Enemy. This he perform'd with a Diligence and Industry proportionate to his native Valour; for he either oppos'd, or attack'd the Enemy both by Night and Day, and sometimes remain'd so long on Horseback, that the most robust and vigorous of his Men, no longer able to bear the Fatigue, fell sick; but he himself, tho' before worse than *Arcisjewski*, always remain'd chearful and active, vigorous and healthy.

Another Patient, cur'd by the *Cneuffelian* Potion, was *Samuel Timmermannus*, a wealthy Gentleman at the *Hague*, and then about forty-nine Years of Age. This Man was more violently afflicted than any Arthritic Patient *Arcisjewski* had ever seen; for the first Time he saw him, he so was depriv'd of the Use of all his Limbs, that confin'd to his Bed, nor had he Strength enough to move either his Body, his Legs, or his Arms: His Flesh was so wasted by his intense Pain, that the Skin adher'd to the Bones. His Legs and Arms were surprisngly extenuated, but his Knees and other Joints were remarkably tumid. This Disorder was also, accompanied with want of Sleep, excessive Pains
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of the Head, continual Catarrhs, and frequent and violent Fits of the Colic.

Arcisſewski was with *Cneuffelius* when he made him the first Viſit; and ſeeing the Patient already almoſt deſtroy'd with a Complication of Diſeaſes, abſolutely deſtitute of Strength, and hardly able to draw his Breath, he was ſurpriz'd at the *Doctor's* Boldneſs, when he chearfully undertook his Cure, and promiſed perfect Health to a Man, who for eight Years before had with great Expences and no Advantage, us'd Loads of Galenical Preparations, and tried various Mineral Waters of different Kinds. On the 6th of *Auguſt* 1642, this Patient began to take the Potion, and was, in the Months of *Auguſt* and *September*, gradually ſo ſtrengthen'd, that *Arciſſewski* often ſaw him walk ſlowly in his own Houſe. In *October* he declined again, and in ſix Days time was again confin'd to his Bed. As he now complain'd of violent Head-achs, want of Sleep, a preternatural Heat, and certain Febrile Commotions, he earneſtly deſir'd a Vein to be open'd, being accuſtom'd to frequent Venefections by the Galenical Phyſicians. This was deſerr'd for ſome Time, as contrary to the
Orders

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Orders of *Cneuffelius*. But as he strenuously persisted in his Request, on the 17th of *October* 1642, he had six Ounces of Blood taken from him, which was rather a Ventilation than a Detraction of Blood. How bad the State of his Health was after the Use of the *Cneuffelian* Medicine for ten Weeks was sufficiently evident from an Inspection of the Blood, which when concreted had no Redness: A certain thick Glue, like yellow Bacon, or the Skin of a Hog, floated on the Surface of a yellow bileous Serum. To the under Part of this Glue adher'd scarcely an Ounce of black Blood, all the rest being Serum and Glue, entirely void of a red Colour. By the Use of the Potion, however, without any other Medicines, the Patient soon recovered, and got both Flesh and Strength. In *December* his Disorder again attack'd him, and confin'd him to his Bed about ten Days. But during *January, February, March, April* and *May*, he was pretty well, his Paroxysms being both slight and few. He appear'd so sound, robust and healthy, that he frequently went on Foot to attend the Publick Worship, and at last, contrary to the Expectation of all who knew him, recover'd a perfect State of Health.

Health. But this Gentleman being immensely rich, and naturally of a social Disposition, often indulg'd himself too far in Eating and Drinking with his Friends and Acquaintances. And, probably in consequence of this Liberty, he was on the 22d of *June* seiz'd with a Colic, which however soon disappear'd. And soon after, tho' he had used the *Cneuffelian* Potion for a Year, he was, on the 6th of *July* 1645, seiz'd with a Gout, which, tho' not so violent as the former, was yet sufficient to evince, that Patients excessively bad are not sometimes freed from their Disorder by using this Potion only for a Year.

The Medicine which *Arcissewski* receiv'd from *Cneuffelius* was a certain distill'd pellucid Liquor, the Vehicle of a fine Powder, which, when the Glass had stood a considerable time at Rest, subsided to the Bottom. This Powder was the principal Ingredient in the whole Medicine. *Cneuffelius* one Day shew'd a certain Quantity of it in an Ivory Box to *Arcissewski*. It was very heavy, and of an obscure reddish Colour, like that of recent Aromatic Cloves, before they are become Black by Age. But what he saw in the Box, was not so fine as that in

the Glas, but consisted of minute Grains, about the size of small Gunpowder. It had no Taste, but only discover'd something of a styptic Quality, when long examin'd by the Tongue. A small Quantity of it was only added to the above-mention'd Liquor ; for *Cneuffelius* said, he only put a Grain of it into forty Ounces of the Liquor. Of what this Powder consisted, *Cneuffelius* neither told *Arcissewski*, nor was he so impudent, as he says, as to ask.

In the Liquor, besides other Things, Spirit of Vitriol was evidently discover'd by the Taste ; and that it might have a more grateful Relish, like that of Mineral Waters, there was mixed with it Julap of Violets ; from which, whilst recent, it had a Colour somewhat resembling that of Violets, but became reddish when it was older.

Cneuffelius order'd the Patient to keep this Liquor with the Powder in it, in Phials close stopp'd in a cold Cellar, and never to expose it to a warm Air, that it might the better retain its grateful Taste.

After shaking the Glas, in order to mix the subsiding Powder with the Liquor, he order'd him to drink three Ounces of it thrice a Day. The first Dose was to be

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taken about six or seven in the Morning on an empty Stomach. Nor was he to Breakfast till four, or at least three Hours after. The Doctor allow'd the Patient to dine on any thing he lik'd, without making any Choice of Aliments, only taking Care neither to eat nor drink to Excess.

The second Dose was to be taken three Hours after Dinner ; and the Patient, fasting three or four Hours after, was to take a light Supper ; three Hours after which, he was to take the third Dose.

By this Description it should seem, that the Powder was a Precipitate of Mercury.

The following Extract from the celebrated Frederic Hoffman's Treatise De Mercurio & Medicamentis Mercurialibus, will give farther Satisfaction, with respect to this Method of relieving the Gout, both because he describes the Medicine which Cneuffelius, probably, used, and because he is an Author of the first Rank in Physic, having been Professor for many Years at Hall in Saxony, and afterwards first Physician to the late, and the present Kings of Prussia.

THE Bodies which are commodiously mixed with Mercury, are highly pure Metals, no ways unfriendly to the Constitution, such as pure Gold and Tin, which excellently check the Violence of Mercury, as is sufficiently obvious from frequent Observation, and especially from the Effects of the *Mercurius Diaphoreticus Jovialis*, which is most properly prepared thus :

With Laminæ of pure *British* Tin, and Mercury well depurated, an Amalgama is made without Fire. From this Amalgama, placed in a Glass Retort, a

sufficient Quantity of Spirit of Nitre is drawn by means of a Sand Heat. The whitish Powder remaining in the Bottom of the Retort after the Abstraction of the Spirit is to beedulcorated, as well as possible, with Rain Water; in order to obtain which End the more effectually, Spirit of Wine is to be frequently deflagrated upon the Powder, that by this Means the Spiculæ of the Menstruum, adhering to it, may be the better drawn out, and afterwards the more easily receiv'd into the warm Water. But that the Spiculæ of the corrosive Menstruum, which cannot be carried off by Elutriation, may be destroy'd, the Powder is for some Hours to be carefully triturated on a Marble, pouring on it, at proper Intervals, a sufficient Quantity of the Liquor of fix'd Nitre. And this Trituration is to be repeated three times, the Powder being suffer'd to become dry before each time; and lastly, the dry'd Matter is to be put into warm Water, and the Powder, which subsides, collected for Use.

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This Preparation rarely or never excites a Salivation, unless when it is exhibited in too large a Dose, or its Use is too long persisted in; but in a far smaller Dose than Cinnabar, it generally exerts its Efficacy by somewhat increasing insensible Perspiration, or by exciting Sweats, if a proper Regimen is observed; for the Sulphur of the Tin, the Presence of which is discovered by its kindling with Nitre, in the Subtilty of its Parts, far exceeds the common Sulphur, or the impure Sulphur of Antimony used in the Preparation of Cinnabar; in consequence of which it not only checks the excessive Impetus of the Mercurial Globules, but also prevents the Access of acrid Salts, whilst, at the same time, it does not so effectually fix and obtund the penetrating Quality of the Mercurial Globules, as the coarser Sulphur does in Cinnabar.

But if in the room of Tin we substitute Gold, or at least, add a Portion of Gold to Mercury, to the former, and intimately mix them, a Medicine will be produc'd, in Efficacy far exceeding the last describ'd: For, as the Gold, in Consequence of its being an Homogeneous Substance, is easily and
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intimately mixed with the Mercury, so, by the considerable Weight of its minute Parts, interspersed with the Globules, of Mercury it heightens its Virtues, and renders it more efficacious, whilst it changes the too sudden Impetus, which the Mercurial Globules would otherwise excite in the human Body, into a more constant, and, in Consequence of its Gravity, a more penetrating Action. Besides, Gold is only capable of being acted upon, and dissolved, by the most powerful Menstruums, such as *Aqua Regia*; in Consequence of which, when united with Mercury, it prevents that Access of acrid Salts, which otherwise readily happens in the Juices of the human Body; by which means it excellently prevents the violent Commotions, which would otherwise be excited. Various Mixtures of Gold with Mercury are contrived, in order to reduce them to the Form of a Powder. But the least expensive Method is this; *Hungarian*, or any other Species of pure Gold, is to be dissolved in *Aqua Regia*. Into this Solution a proper Quantity of duly depurated Mercury is to be gradually instill'd. Upon this, the Gold, together with a Portion of the Mercury, it forthwith precipitated to the Bot-

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tom, in the Form of a Powder, which, when the Menstruum is poured off, is to be gathered, corrected by the Addition of some Alcaline Liquor, and carefully edulcorated by frequent Elutriations, and Deflagrations of Spirit of Wine. But if a sufficient Quantity of *Aurum Fulminans*, or which is better, of that reddish Powder, used in making red Glafs, which is precipitated by Water from a Solution of Gold and Tin, is by long Trituration, and the Asperſion of Water, duly mixed with white precipitated Mercury previously well waſh'd, a Medicine is obtain'd of equal Efficacy with that laſt deſcrib'd, and generally leſs expensive. But tho' theſe Medicines are pretty efficacious, if duly exhibited, yet ſince in theſe Preparations, the Gold is not intimately mixed with the Mercury, but only adheres to the Surfaces of its Globules, as is evident from this, that by a moderate Fire the Mercury may be again ſeparated from it; and ſince Medicines of this Kind cannot be perfectly diveſted of the Acidity of the corroſive Menſtruum, hence it happens, that not agreeing well with delicate and tender Conſtitutions, they often excite a Salivation, tho' of a far milder and more gentle kind, than

than those raised by the Use of crude Mercury. For this Reason the Chymists have earnestly desir'd such a Correction of Mercury, as, without the Addition of corrosive Menstruums, might be commodiously carried on by the moderate Action of Fire, and consist in its intimate Mixture with Gold; which End may be obtained by the Method presently to be laid down, in such a manner, that the Mercury, its former Texture being changed, is converted into an highly fix'd Powder of a reddish purple Colour, and not easily to be reduced to its constituent Parts. 'Tis to no Purpose to object, that this Powder, in Consequence of its fix'd Nature, can produce no considerable Effects on the human Body; for tho' it is Proof against the Action of the Fire, and tho' the Texture of the Gold used in preparing it is so firm, as to resist the Influence of corrosive Menstruums, yet, by the Mercury, previously exalted in a proper manner, and render'd more spirituous, the firmest Cohesion of Gold may be thoroughly dissolved; and by a subsequent Digestion, its minutest Parts may be so united with the Globules of the Mercury, that from this mutual Coalition

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there may be produced a concreted Substance, not only capable of being quickly exagitated by the gentlest Heat of the Body, but also productive of very singular Effects, by no means to be obtained by the other Corrections of Mercury, as is ingeniously demonstrated in the Notes to *Poterius*, in the following Words: “ Tho’ very few Remedies of singular Efficacy are prepar’d with Gold, yet this Metal is of great Use and Service in the Preparation of an highly efficacious Medicine, if it is reduc’d to a due Temperament by a strict and intimate Union with Mercury, which abounds with an highly active Mineral Spirit; for the fix’d Substance of the Gold receives the highly minute Particles of the Mercury into its Pores; so that an equable Harmony and Proportion between them is produc’d: Hence, in my Opinion, nothing is a more proper Corrector for Mercury than Gold, whilst, at the same time, nothing exalts, actuates, and increases the Medicinal Virtues of Gold, so effectually as Mercury.”

In order, therefore, to produce a stable and permanent Mixture of Gold with Mercury, the first Thing necessary is, to separate from the latter that mineral Earth,

with which it abounds, and is, as it were, loaded, that by this Means the Ethereal Fluid may afterwards act more forcibly on the more pure and subtile Globules of the Mercury, and, by forcing them effectually into the Pores of the Gold, mix them intimately with the pure Earth contain'd in that Metal. The Mercury prepar'd in this manner, is sometimes call'd *Virgin Mercury*; and at other times distinguish'd by the Epithets *Animated*, and *Philosophical*. Tho' this Mercury, is with great Expences prepared in different Methods, by the Chymists, yet we shall not pretend to form a Judgment of any of them. That Method, however describ'd, tho' in mystical Terms, by the Author who assumes the Name of *Philaletba*, in his *Introitus apertus ad Occlusum Regis Palatium*, and from him, as the Learned think, tho' somewhat more distinctly, by the Author of *Riplæus Redivivus*, is found to answer upon making the Experiment; and is, therefore, highly celebrated by the more skilful Chymists. But, as the mystical Stile of these Authors is not to be comprehended without some Thought and Consideration, I shall, in plain and intelligible Language, give the Description of animated Mercury,

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which, from my own Experience, I have found to be accurate and just. First, common Quicksilver is to be amalgamated with genuine Martial Regulus of Antimony (for the common sort does not contain the smallest Particle of Iron) by means of the *two Doves of Diana*, which many of the mystical Chymists take to be two Parts of Silver; to which they have been, perhaps, induc'd, by some Imaginary and Hieroglyphical Analogy between Silver and Doves, or perhaps, by the Authority of *Alexander Scubtenius*, who formerly attempted the Correction of this Species of Mercury, as we may see in his *Tractat. de Antimon. 2.* But others, and especially *Becher* in his *Supplement. Phys. Subterr.* assert, that by these two Doves are meant two Salts, Alkaline Salt, for Instance, and Sal Ammoniac. Both these Opinions are agreeable to Reason, and confirm'd by Experience; but the Process will proceed more expeditiously, if one Part of Regulus of Antimony, and two Parts of Silver, are melted by means of Fire; and if to these, when united, we add Mercury, with a due Quantity of these Salts; and thus make an Amalgama. Then the Amalgama is to be strongly triturated in a Glass Mortar,

pouring upon it at proper Intervals, a sufficient Quantity of Rain Water; which by that means becomes black, and when poured off, exhibits a Powder of the same Colour, which, when kindled, diffuses a foetid Smell, tho' Salts were not used in the Amalgamation. But this Trituration, with frequent Affusions of the Rain Water, is to be continu'd, till all the Regulus of Antimony is so effectually washed away in the Form of a black Powder, that nothing but the pure Amalgama is left. After this, the Amalgama is to be put into a Glass Retort, and the Mercury is to be abstracted by a Sand Heat. By this means the pure Silver is left in the Bottom of the Retort; and this Silver, when mix'd with more Regulus of Antimony, is again to be amalgated by the Addition of the Salts, afterwards depurated by the like Trituration, and last of all distilled. When these Operations have been repeated, for at least seven or nine times, a much more pure and subtile Mercury is afforded, which not only acts more powerfully upon other Metals, but, also, produces more conspicuous and salutary Effects on the Human Body. The Mercury must be exalted in this manner, in order to render it fit for the Preparation of
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this celebrated and efficacious Medicine. This Discovery, tho' originally made and perfected by Experiments, is nevertheless supported by Reasons, which greatly illustrate it; for whilst the Martial Regulus of Antimony is, by its Colliquation, intimately mixed with the minutest Globules of the Silver, the Substance of that Metal, which was before smooth and polish'd, is, by the angular and irregular Parts of the Regulus, so chang'd, that the minutest Parts of the Silver, not only acquire unequal Surfaces, but also have their Interstices render'd smaller, into which when the Mercury is, by a due Amalgamation, and the mutual Conflict of the Salts, violently and impetuously forc'd, the gross and impure Earth of the Mercury is, as it were, separated, and torn from its Adhesion with the other Parts; and is afterwards, when the Globules of the Mercury enters smaller and more tortuous Pores, to be absterg'd and remov'd, together with the heterogeneous Parts of the *Regulus*, by means of frequent Triturations and Washings. The Mercury produc'd by this laborious Preparation, is to be afterwards added to pure Gold; to one Part of which three or four, or (according to *Philaletba*) only two Parts of Mercury, are

to be united and joined by the common Method of Amalgamation. After this, the Amalgama is to be put into a Glass Phial, with a flat Bottom, that the Heat may act on a larger Surface. Then the Phial, when the grosser Air is exhausted, left being expanded by the Heat it should burst the Vessel, is to be hermetically seal'd; and, in an *Athamor*, exposed to a proper Digestion, for seven, or even nine solar Months successively, gradually proceeding from a fainter to a stronger Degree of Fire. As in this Digestion the whole of the Affair consists, so, if it is duly made, the Amalgama will be gradually converted into a reddish Powder, which during the first Months of the Digestion, is not so corrected, but that it will excite Fluxes or Salivations, especially in tender Constitutions. But by a protracted Digestion it is so perfected, and divested of all its Drastring Qualities, that the fixed Powder produc'd by it may be safely exhibited to the Quantity of two, three, or four Grains for a Dose, and thus persisted in for some Days; so that those of the most delicate Constitutions have no Reason to be afraid of having a Salivation, or any of the Commotions produc'd by the Preparations of crude Mercury, excited by it.

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This Exaltation and Correction of Mercury is, therefore, the most proper and agreeable to the Principles of rational Chymistry: And, as this Method is class'd among the more abstruse and sacred Mysteries, 'tis also so highly esteemed by the curious and industrious Part of Chymists, that they have judg'd Mercury, thus animated, necessary to the Discovery of the Philosophers Stone: But, warn'd by the Fate of others, who have wrote on this Subject, I shall only consider the Medicinal Uses of Mercury thus prepared, which are not only very considerable in themselves, but, also, superior to those of other Medicines. For this Reason it has, by several eminent Physicians, been, with uncommon Success, prescrib'd for various obstinate Diseases, which would not yield to the Efficacy of other Medicines. Thus, it was frequently order'd by *Crelles*, an eminent and successful Practitioner. The Efficacy, also, of this solar animated Mercury, was at *Hall* often happily experienced by the celebrated Chymist *Hochgræff*, especially in subduing those Reproaches of Physic, Quartan Fevers and Gouts: So that some who laboured long under the former, and
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one afflicted with it for four Years successively, were, by a few Doses of this Medicine, restor'd to perfect Health and Ease: But, among the Gouty Patients who were by means of this Medicine quickly cur'd, we may justly reckon a certain Person, well known in these Parts, who being miserably rack'd with fix'd arthritic Pains, and Contractions of his Limbs, was perfectly restor'd to his former Health, without ever having had a Relapse. The Success of *Cneuffelius* in curing the Gout with Mercury thus fix'd, may be seen in *Append. ad. Miscell. Nat. curios.* and confirmed by unexceptionable Witnesses; that is, the Persons cured. With respect to this, the Reader may consult that Work, intituled, *Epistola de Curata Podagra per D. Andream Cneæffellium*. These Instances sufficiently prove, that the Encomiums bestow'd on this Medicine are not groundless and overdone, but supported by Experience; so that there is no manner of Doubt, but that without any Dread of Danger, this Medicine is capable of producing such salutary Effects in obstinate Disorders, if really curable, as can neither be obtained by any other Remedies of the Animal and Vegetable Kingdom, hitherto known, nor by a Mercurial

curial Salivation, which is not only harsh, and attended with violent, and often dangerous Commotions, but is also, frequently, highly tedious. The Use of the solar animated Mercury is preferable to a Salivation, because it may be gratefully exhibited to the most delicate Constitutions in a due manner, and small Doses, provided it is once or twice a Day taken, and its Use persisted in, according to the Circumstances of the Disorder; which may be done in a sufficiently grateful manner, if the Dose is mixed with Conserve of Roses, or any other agreeable Conserve, without the Use of any other Medicines. But, before the Exhibition of this Preparation, the *Primæ Viæ* must be freed from those Sordes, which might prevent the Efficacy of the Medicine, by Abstergents, whose Efficacy is heighten'd by a gently stimulating resinous Purgative; for drastic Purgatives, as they are rarely proper, so they are always prejudicial, in the beginning of a Cure: The *Primæ Viæ* may also, according to the Situation of the Patient, be freed from the Sordes contain'd in them, by a Vomit; which, however, is not to be exhibited without the previous Use of sa-

line and inciding Medicines. When this Medicine is taken, after such a previous Preparation of the Body, 'tis proper to drink after it some warm aqueous Liquor ; such as Tea, Coffee, an Infusion of Paul's Betony, or a Decoction of Sarsaparilla, and China Root, together with Sassafras Bark. These diluting Liquors make the Medicine exert its proper Efficacy, render the Body perspirable, and receive the saline Sordes, disengag'd by the Force and Energy of the Medicine, and which, being dispersed in them, may be without any Violence afterwards eliminated from the Body, thro' proper E-munctories, especially thro' the Pores of the Skin, provided they are kept sufficiently open by a due Regimen, during which, by proper Cloths, the external Cold is excluded without inducing an intolerable and troublesome Heat, and the whole Body is preserved in a gentle and moist Warmth ; for profuse Sweats are so far from being necessary, or productive of happy Effects, in the Cure of almost all Chronical Diseases, that they rather exhaust the Strength, already too much impaired in the Course of a slow Disorder. But if such Sweats are forc'd, and as it were, ex-

torted, as they often are, the greatest Misfortunes, easily productive of Infarctions of the Viscera, are to be dreaded. Let all violent and sudden Commotions, therefore, be avoided as much as is possible; and as this Medicine is not productive of such Effects, the viscid and peccant Matter will not, by one or two Doses of it, which Quacks affirm of their Medicines, be subdued and eliminated; but must be conquer'd by the continual and uninterrupted, tho' mild and gentle Action of it. Thus, tho' *Lucas Tozzi*, Physician to Pope *Innocent* the XIIth, in his *Praxis Medica*, asserts, that by Mercury thus fix'd, exhibited only seven times, he totally remov'd a Lues Venerea, and a Quartan Fever; without being so arrogant, as to call his Veracity into Question, I must only say, that I can hardly believe, that in cold Climates, such as are more Northerly, and where, in Chronical Disorders, there is such a Viscidity and Redundance of the peccant Humours, the like Effect can be so speedily, and in so few Days, produc'd by this Medicine. Such an happy and salutary Effect will, however, without any Violence to the Patient, be much accelerated, if, after the repeated Use of the

Medicine for some Days, we interpose Balsamic and salino-sulphureous Medicines, the most considerable and efficacious of which are *Stabl's Elixir Balsamicum*, or the *Spiritus Oleosus* prepar'd according to the Directions of *Sylvius*, and accommodated to the Situation of the Patient: And certainly a moderate Dose of these, daily taken between Meals, and duly persisted in, calmly accelerates the Cure of Chronical Disorders; an Effect not to be produced by more violent Means: For, as the languid Digestion is by this means promoted, the Chyle, before not sufficiently subdu'd, and by its Viscidity contaminating the Humours, is corrected, and, as it were, sheath'd up, in these Balsamic Substances; and the vital Energy and Turgescence of the Humours before suppress'd, and, as it were, suffocated, by their preternatural Lensor, is so animated with fresh Vigour, that the *Fomes* of the obstinate Disorder is thereby seasonably destroy'd, especially if the Efficacy of the Medicines is enhanc'd by a proper Regimen.

But however easily the rich and prosperous Part of Mankind may be able to support the Continuation of a Cure attempted by this solar Mercury, yet those who are straiten'd

straitened in their Circumstances, can by no means afford the Expences necessary for such a Course; for which Reason, I think they may at a far cheaper Rate, have the same Ends answered by the *Mercurius Diaphoreticus Jovialis*: And in this Sentiment I am confirmed, not only by the Experiments made by skilful Physicians, but, also, by the Composition of the Medicine, in which every Thing is calculated for promoting the same Ends with Mercury. As the Operation of this Medicine is somewhat more quick and speedy, than that of solar animated Mercury, so, when it is exhibited in large Doses, in those Disorders, where there is a violent Intemperature of the Humours, such as a *Lues Venerea*, and a Scurvy, it excites a kind of Salivation; yet this Salivation, unless excited by improper Doses of it, is so gentle, as hardly to be perceived by the Patients, or at least is supported without any Trouble. But in other Cases, where there is not such a large Quantity of acrid Humours, but rather an Immobility and Spissitude of the Juices, it promotes the Cure without a Salivation, a Circumstance peculiar to itself. Besides, a Discharge of the *Saliva*, excited by this Medicine, may almost
be

be universally prevented, if the Causes concurring to it are only seasonably checked and removed. And since only by the Access of a violent Acrimony, the Medicine can be so heighten'd, as to excite any Degree of a Salivation, this can never happen in the Mass of Humours, where the Acrimony is not so disengaged and intense, that it can attack and mix itself with the Globules of Mercury, sheathed up in the pure Sulphur of the Tin: But, if such a Misfortune can happen any where, it must be in the *Primæ Viæ*, which in most Chronical Disorders, besides other *Sordes*, are also loaded with a large Quantity of acid Humours: And since the Medicine is for a considerable Time lodged in the *Primæ Viæ*, it may more easily assume an acrid Quality in them, than in the Mass of Blood. In order to prevent this, these *Sordes* are, before the Use of the Medicine, to be as effectually as possible removed by mild and proper Cathartics of a gummy and resinous Nature, such as Galbanum, Ammoniac, Bdellium, and Mastich, rendered somewhat brisker, by a proper Quantity of red Myrrh, and a small Quantity of the *Extractum Aloeticum* of *Ludovicus*; for these Substances, by their gummous and mucilaginous

ginous Parts, embrace the Acid of the *Primæ Viæ*, and so sheath up and obtund its Spicula, that it may be gently carried off without any violent Symptoms, which, in Cases of this Nature, are excited by more drastic resinous Substances. After the previous Use of such a Cathartic, repeated according to the Condition of the Patient, the Medicine is to be exhibited in Conjunction with temperate earthy Substances; which, as they more quickly absorb the Acid, than the Mercury corrected with the Sulphur of the Tin, so, by keeping it free from all foreign Acrimony, they render it capable of exerting its mild and gentle Efficacy: But if, by the Addition of the Absorbent Powders, the Bulk of the Medicine, and its Continuation, should prove uneasy, in the Morning, and, if 'tis necessary, in the Evening, we may exhibit a Dose of the Diaphoretic Mercury alone, from six to ten Grains, but no more; and, when the Patient goes to Bed, let him take a sufficient Dose of the absorbent Powders, that is, from two Scruples to one Dram, in some proper aqueous Vehicle. But the mild and gentle Operation of this Medicine will be more effectually promoted, and a Salivation entirely

entirely prevented, if, by a proper Regimen, the Body is kept duly warm ; or, in proper Cases, a mild Sweat for some Hours is promoted by now and then exhibiting Sudorifics of a Neutral kind, such as the *Spiritus Alexipharmicus Bussii Correctus*, the succinated Liquor of Hartshorn, and the Bezoardic Tincture, without an Acid. These, when seasonably interposed between the Doses of the Mercury, for the most part, by one mild and gentle Sweat, remove the beginning Salivation, as is obvious from the Observations of many practical Physicians ; much more might a Salivation, if it was to be produced by the Use of the *Mercurius Diaphoreticus Jovialis*, a Medicine sufficiently corrected, be prevented by this Means. As this Medicine, therefore, when exhibited in the Manner now directed, is entirely divested of all drastic Qualities, so it may confidently be prescribed, even in a Scorbutic Intemperature, tho' of a pretty violent kind, since it is much more safe than most other Preparations of Mercury. So far *F. Hoffman*.

It is not possible for any one versed in Medicinal Authors, to read the preceding Part of this Treatise, without remembering the prodigious Encomiums bestowed by the old Chymists

Chymists on their Preparations of Mercury. By these it would seem, that *Paracelsus* and *Van Helmont* acquir'd a very large Portion of their Reputation ; for nothing but great Success in the Cure of the most obstinate Distempers, which pertinaceously resisted the vulgar Methods then in vogue, could have convey'd their Names to Posterity. Relative to this, *Glauber* has the following remarkable Passage.

“ Vulgar Mercury, by the Help of our
“ secret *Salmiac*, may be so purified in
“ the Space of one Day, as the Day fol-
“ lowing, by one only Abstraction of the
“ Water of *Saltaberis*, it may be coagulated
“ into a red fix'd Medicine. Which swift
“ Mortification, Coagulation, or Fixation,
“ was highly esteemed by *Paracelsus* and
“ *Helmont*. This Mercury *Paracelsus* in-
“ signized with the Title of *Coralline Mer-*
“ *cury*, and celebrated the same with this
“ illustrious Phrase, *That, in the whole Na-*
“ *ture of Things, there was not any Remedy*
“ *more excellent for yielding Relief in the*
“ *Gout and French Disease*: Adding, that
“ it recreates the Mind of the Artist, be-
“ cause it hath Entrance into Gold, and
“ with the same is converted into Gold,

“ and so not a few impoverish’d Chymists
 “ may again be stored with Riches. But
 “ since the Death of this Philosopher, you
 “ shall not find, that there hath been one
 “ or other of the Professors of Chymistry
 “ unto this Day, who could prepare such a
 “ red fixed Mercury. The Reason hereof
 “ is, because none of the Sons of Art
 “ could comprehend the Water of *Salta-*
 “ *beris*, by which Mercury is to be brought
 “ to a fixed Redness; none, I say, until
 “ *Helmont*, that most learned Philosopher
 “ of our Age, discovered himself, witnessing
 “ that he also could prepare such Mercury,
 “ which he insignized with the Name of
 “ *Horizontal Gold*, affirming it would suf-
 “ ficiently supply whatsoever the Physician
 “ and Surgeon should need.

“ In like Manner, that most expert Phi-
 “ losopher *Nuysemantius* wrote of such a
 “ Mercury, testifying that two or three
 “ Grains of it only being taken in some
 “ Confortative, would purge out all Impu-
 “ rities from the human Body. Indeed
 “ *Helmont* expresses this in other Words, yet
 “ by them intimates, that it purgeth out
 “ all Filth from the Veins. Behold three
 “ famous Men, serving instead of the *Mar-*
pesian

“ *pesian* Columns of all Hermetic Philosophy,
“ and Medicine ; for they have excellently
“ written of this Mercury : Yet to the In-
“ ventions of these, none of their Succes-
“ sors have added any thing, but have
“ been still and quiet, shunning the Labour
“ of preparing an universal Medicine. Who-
“ soever is seized with a Desire of succour-
“ ing the Misery of the Sick, he will do
“ better for public Good, in using such a
“ fixed Mercury, rather for expelling the
“ Cruelty of a tyrannical Gout, and the
“ *French* Disease, than for Gold-making,
“ unless so far as he hath need to use the
“ same for necessary Aliments.”

These Chymists who were acquainted with Medicines of much greater Efficacy than those commonly known and us'd, deserve very ill of Mankind, for concealing those valuable Remedies, or giving the Method of preparing them in a Manner utterly unintelligible. But we may, perhaps, find a Reason for this Conduct, if we reflect upon the State of Physic in their days, and the Treatment they met with from the *Galenical* Physicians their Contemporaries.

With respect to the State of Physic, the Practitioners in those days were universally

attach'd to a particular System; in consequence of which, they persisted with Obstinacy in Methods of Cure, by which scarcely any one ever recover'd; and esteem'd it little less than Sacrilege to deviate from the beaten Road of Practice, though abundant Experience might have convinced them, that it could seldom or never lead to Health. Hence Patients labouring under chronical Distempers, were nauseated with fruitless Repetitions of Decoctions, Julaps, Potions, Pills, Electuaries, and all the insignificant Forms of superfluous Medicines; and this for Months, and even Years, provided the Patient was willing and able to pay for so protracted an Attendance. When, therefore, the Chymists, whether by Accident or through Industry is not material, found Means to cure by a few efficacious Medicines, and in a very little Time, those rebellious Distempers which were before either not cur'd at all, or at least requir'd a tedious Perseverance in the Use of Remedies not less troublesome than the Disease it self, the *Galeniſts* immediately were alarm'd, imagining their profitable Craft in danger, and apprehending a Revolution in Physic to the Detriment of their private Fortunes. Hence, instead

stead of giving the Inventors the Honour due to the Importance of their Discoveries, they never ceas'd to load them with Reproaches, and brand them with Infamy, as ignorant Pretenders, and dangerous Innovators. This Treatment *Van Helmont* loudly complains of, and informs us, that they carry'd the Farce so far, as to attempt the Prohibition of his Book on Fevers, by publick Authority.

Such Conduct could not fail to irritate the Chymists, and incline them to conceal from their Antagonists the Methods of preparing those Remedies, whose Efficacy excited the Displeasure of the Physicians their Contemporaries. Thus did the Artifices of the Professors retard the Improvement of the Art of Physic.

I have said thus much in favour of the old Chymists, upon a Supposition that they were the real Inventors of some very valuable and efficacious Medicines, a Circumstance I am abundantly convinc'd of not only from well attested Histories, but from the Evidence of my Senses : I would not, however, have it imagin'd, that I would patronize any of their Chimeras, or that I approve their
general

general Conduct, farther than Reason and Experience extort my Approbation.

I now proceed to relate what I have heard relative to the Treatment of the Gout and Rheumatic Disorders, with Mercury.

Some Years ago there was a Person in Town, utterly ignorant of Physic, who made it his Employment to cure Rheumatisms among the ordinary People, and thereby acquir'd a tolerable Subsistence. This Man affirm'd with great Confidence, that the Gout was always to be reliev'd, and generally to be cur'd by a steady Perseverance in the Use of a Medicine, the Preparation of which he conceal'd, but which I knew to be Mercurial from many Circumstances; particularly because when it had been given at random, and without Judgment, as it generally was, it frequently excited a Sort of Salivation, which, though slight, was sufficient to discover its Origin. This Person at one time or other took me to see, I believe, more than forty of those who had took his Medicine, who all concurr'd in bearing Testimony to the Truth of what he had asserted. But the Case which I best remember, and which is most to our present Purpose, is that of one Mr. *Davis*, formerly a considerable Chymist
in

in *London*, but at that Time a Pensioner in *Morden College* on *Black-Heath*, where I was directed, and whither I went to find him. The Particulars of his Case, so near as I can recollect, were as follows.

When he was about seventy-two, he had been violently afflicted with the Gout for near twenty Years, by which he was in a great measure depriv'd of the Use of his Limbs, especially his Fingers, the Joints of which were render'd immoveable by Chalk-stones. At that time he began to take a Medicine recommended to him by the Person above-mention'd, from which he found so much Relief, that he was encourag'd to pursue the Use of it ever since at Intervals, the Effects of which were, that for the last twelve Years (being at this Time eighty-four) he had never felt the least Symptom of the Gout, and had in every respect enjoy'd a perfect State of Health. He farther told me, that in a very few Years the Chalk-stones came away, and the Knots upon the Joints gradually disappear'd; so that when I saw him, which is now about four Years since, he had the perfect Use of his Hands and Feet, and no Appearance of any preternatural Tumor.

With respect to the particular Preparation of Mercury he took, he would not give me the exact Process; but I understood by frequent Conversations with him, that it was made by dissolving Mercury purify'd by repeated Amalgamations, as mention'd above, and then dissolv'd in Spirit of Nitre, which was drawn off to Dryness by a Sand-heat; the remaining Mercurial Mass was then dulcify'd by repeated Affusions of Water, Trituration, Calcination, and last of all by burning a sufficient Quantity of Spirit of Wine upon it.

This Gentleman liv'd, as I am inform'd, till last Summer, in a very good State of Health, and then dy'd of Old Age.

Some Years ago I went with the Person I have mention'd above, to see one under the Operation of the Medicine he gave him, which I knew was Mercurial only. This Patient was Commander of a Merchantman lately arriv'd from the *West-Indies*; I don't recollect that I ever heard his Name, nor do I exactly remember more of his Habitation, than that it was in a little dirty Street in *Wapping*, a Place I never was before nor since. He told me that for four or five days he was confin'd to his Bed by a terrible

rible Fit of the Gout in both Feet ; that two Days before, he had taken a Dose of a Medicine, which the Gentleman who accompanied me had given him ; that a few Hours after taking it, the Part in Pain began to sweat profusely, whilst all the other Parts of his Body were in a gentle and agreeable Glow only ; that ever since, his Feet had continu'd to sweat so profusely, that the Napkins which had been laid to them two Hours before I saw him, eight times doubled, were wet quite through ; and that the exquisite Torture he felt before, had gradually abated, insomuch that he could now walk across his Chamber without Pain, and without the Assistance of a Stick.

I now proceed to what I have learn'd from my own Experience, with respect to which I must observe, that I have, for some Years, met with no Rheumatism so obstinate as not to yield to Mercury, when the Use of it has been duly persisted in ; and very few arthritic Cases, which have not been eminently relieved by the same Medicine ; insomuch that I am firmly persuaded, that most anomalous Gouts may be render'd regular ; and that those who are so unfortunate as to be confin'd, and that under the most miserable

Tortures, for half the Year, and deprived of the Use of their Limbs for the rest, may be brought to such a State, as to have a regular Fit once, or, perhaps, twice a Year, for a Fortnight or three Weeks ; and to enjoy a tolerable Use of their Limbs, and a very good State of Health all the rest of their Time. And it is an Observation of some Importance, and greatly in favour of the Method I recommend, that whenever I have given Mercurials with this View, I have never fail'd to find the Appetite and Digestion greatly mended, and a great Alteration for the better in the Actions of those *Viscera* on which Health and Life depend. I must remark, for fear of being misunderstood, that whenever I mention Rheumatisms in this Treatise, I mean those of the chronical Sort ; for in those of the acute Kind, I have not found Mercury of equal Efficacy.

With respect to the particular Preparations of Mercury, I have not confin'd myself to any one. In slight Cases I have us'd Mercury divided with some one or other of the Turpentine, and mix'd with a Cathartic, in the Manner of *Belloste's* Pills ; Calomel, or the *Æthiops Antimonialis*, a Medicine of no inconsiderable Efficacy : In more obstinate

nate Disorders I have employ'd one or other of the Preparations described above. But for inveterate Cases, I confess I have a great Opinion of the *Mercurius Præcipitatus Solaris* describ'd by *Bates*. And perhaps the celebrated Febrifuge of *Riverius*, may be equal to any of the rest.

Riverius declines giving us the Method of preparing this Febrifuge, unless we can guess at its Composition from the following obscure Description: “ This precious Re-
“ medy, says he, is compos'd of a triple
“ *Hercules*, [perhaps Gold, Antimony, and
“ Mercury] by twelve Operations, [perhaps
“ Distillations] rais'd to the highest De-
“ gree of Perfection. To these three *Her-*
“ *cules*'s there is added a fourth Champion,
“ [perhaps Spirit of Wine] which renders
“ the Remedy complete and perfect. This
“ Medicine may be given to Children, from
“ ten or twelve, to fifteen Grains; and to
“ Persons farther advanced in Years, from
“ twenty to thirty or forty Grains. It ope-
“ rates in a mild and easy Manner, when ex-
“ hibited in a due Dose; nor does it pro-
“ duce any greater Commotions than the
“ common Medicines, or the Compositions
“ of Sena and Rhubarb. Sometimes it

“ operates by Vomit, if any Part of the
 “ morbidic Matter is lodg’d about the Sto-
 “ mach ; for it has this Advantage pecu-
 “ liar to itself, that it goes directly to the
 “ morbidic Matter, where-ever it is lodg’d,
 “ attacks it with Vigour, and persists in
 “ the Encounter till it has subdued it. In
 “ some Cases, where it finds the Passages
 “ open, and no great Quantity of morbi-
 “ fic Matter, it performs its Business with-
 “ out any Trouble, and with a very incon-
 “ siderable Evacuation. But, in other In-
 “ stances, where the Patients have used no
 “ Remedies through the whole Course of
 “ the Disorder, where the Body is stuffed
 “ with the Juices of peccant Aliments,
 “ where the Quantity of noxious Humours
 “ is large, where the Obstructions are obsti-
 “ nate, or the Crudities great, it does not
 “ surmount the Disease, without exciting
 “ considerable Commotions, and creating
 “ some Uneasiness to the Patients ; as hap-
 “ pened to some poor and vulgar Persons,
 “ on whom the first Experiments for inve-
 “ stigating the Virtues of this Remedy were
 “ made.”

But *Hartman*, that celebrated *German*
Chymist, *Rolfinkius*, and several others, have
 been

been more explicit, and given us full Directions for the Preparation of this Specific Febrifuge. They direct the Process to be perform'd in the following Manner.

Take of the purest and best refin'd Gold, half an Ounce ; reduce it into small Portions, and, in the ordinary Manner, dissolve it in Aqua Regia, prepared with common Salt, but not with Sal Ammoniac, because that Species of Salt renders Mercury volatile ; of the Glass of Antimony, half an Ounce ; and of well purified Mercury, three Ounces ; dissolve each separately, and in different Glasses, by Means of Aqua-fortis, in such a Manner, that the Solutions may be sufficiently clear and transparent ; Mix all these Waters together, and draw off the Water by Distillation ; add a fresh Quantity of Aqua Regia, and draw it off frequently, till the Precipitate, when placed upon a red hot Iron, sends forth no Fume at all. When this is obtain'd, calcine the whole Precipitate, carefully cover'd with a Tile, by which Means all the Spirits of the Aqua Regia are exploded
and

and dissipated. Then, from this Precipitate, distil Spirit of Wine, six times, till the Mercury is in some measure fixed. Then the Mercury is to be ignited, and slowly calcin'd, cover'd with a Tile.

Bates gives the Preparation of this Medicine with some Variation from the preceding Process.

Take of the Flowers of Antimony, thrice sublim'd with Sal Ammoniac, and edulcorated; of Glass of Antimony, precipitated in four Ounces of Aqua-fortis prepar'd of Nitre and Allum, each half an Ounce; of Mercury, precipitated with Aqua-fortis prepar'd of Nitre, Vitriol, and Allum, six Ounces; of Gold dissolv'd in Aqua Regia, one Ounce: Mix, and distil gradually to Dryness from a Retort, using twelve Cohobations. To the Powder, when five times wash'd, and dried, add two Pints of Alcohol of Wine; and distil from a new Retort, using six Cohobations; pour out the Alcohol of Wine, and put the Mass of the Calx into a close stoppt Crucible, which is to

the Gout and Rheumatism. 71

be plac'd in a Rototary Fire, for three Hours; then kindle the above-mention'd distill'd Spirit of Wine upon it, according to Art. The Dose is from six Grains to half a Scruple, with an equal Quantity of sulphurated Scammony.

It remains, that I give a few Cases, in Confirmation of the Doctrine I have advanced, selected from a great Number I have treated with the same Success; and these, I presume, will be sufficient to give a general Idea of the Method, and its Effects.

The first Experiment I made was in the Case of an Out-pensioner of *Chelsea* College, upwards of Seventy, who had been nearly depriv'd of the Use of all his Limbs for nine Years by a Rheumatism. I directed him some Doses of the *Aurum Horizontale*, describ'd, as I remember, in the *Collectanea Chymica Leidensia*. It operated pretty briskly; and was attended with so good an Effect, that after the third or fourth Dose, I will not be certain which, he came to me with his Crutches upon his Shoulder, without making any Use of them, a Circumstance he had been unacquainted with for several

veral Years. He took no more at that Time ; but, however, continu'd pretty well for many Months ; at the End of which he took a severe Cold, and relaps'd ; but the same Method set him once again to rights. As this poor Creature was possess'd of scarcely Necessaries, and was perpetually subjected to repeated Colds by his Business, which was that of cleaning Shoes, I did not judge it proper to prosecute the Cure any farther ; neither would his Circumstances permit it. I saw, however, enough to encourage me to proceed farther in other Patients.

After I had experienc'd the great Efficacy of Mercury in Rheumatic and Gouty Cases, in a Multitude of Instances, I had an Opportunity of seeing very considerable Effects from it in the following Case.

The CASE of *RICHARD WETHERSTON*, Esq;

Feb. 12. 1741. Mr. *Wetherston* of the *Lodge* near *Hereford*, apply'd to me for Relief in a Gout, or Rheumatism, as some call'd it. I shall not enter into a Disquisition about the specific Name of the Disorder ;

temper; but shall rather observe, that for the five or six last Years it had in a very great Measure depriv'd him of all his Limbs. He went almost double; it was with the greatest Difficulty he could get up or down Stairs with two or three to help him; the Right-hand was too weak to hold a Dish of Chocolate; and the Fingers of the Left-hand were extremely distorted, and useless. I began the Cure by taking away about ten Ounces of Blood, which was extremely fizy; and this Circumstance, I was inform'd, had been long familiar to him. I then put him into a Course of Mercurials; and in about six Weeks, during which he took about seven or eight Doses, his Right-hand was strong enough to lift a considerable Weight; his Left was not near so much distorted; he went entirely upright; and he was able in a little time to walk near a Mile without any Assistance.

At this time I took some more Blood away, at his Request, in order to observe the Condition it was in; and it was found much less fizy than the first I saw.

This Gentleman will, I dare say, excuse me, if, for the Sake of representing his Case

as accurately as is possible, if I remark, that he was not so regular as I could have wish'd. His Impatience of Confinement, and his Aversion to Purgings, were the Reasons he neglected, in the Course of his Cure, to take his Medicines, sometimes a Week, sometimes a Fortnight, which should have been repeated every three or four Days. 'Tis not to be doubted but that this Neglect, and some accidental Colds, retarded the Completion of the Cure for some Months, induc'd some slight Relapses, and were the Cause that some Distortion of the Fingers of the Left-hand remain'd: The next Winter Mr. *Wetherstone* came to Town from *Bath*, ill of an epidemical Fever, at that time very common all over *England*, which was easily cur'd. With respect to his former Complaint, he was very well; and for any thing I know continues so; if not, I believe I may venture to affirm it is for want of repeating his Medicines at proper Intervals.

The following remarkable Case of Mr. *Walter Baker*, a Printer, who may be heard of at Mr. *Richardson's* in *Salisbury Court, Fleet-street*, I shall give exactly in his own Words,

Mr.

Mr. *BAKER's* CASE.

In *August* 1734, going along the *Strand*, I was seiz'd with a violent Pain in the first Joint of my Left great Toe; and thought of nothing else but that I had some how strain'd the Part; and was advis'd to bathe it with some old Rum, which was done: The next Day a Friend came to see me, who said it was the Gout; and, smiling, wish'd me Joy. I thought him very much out in his Judgment, (for neither my Grandfather, who liv'd to near an hundred and thirteen Years of Age, nor my Father, who liv'd to near Fourscore, nor my Mother, who is still alive, were ever afflicted with the Gout or Rheumatism) and constantly kept applying one simple thing or another, externally, in hopes to receive Benefit therefrom, but in vain. This Fit held me for about seven or eight Days.

About the same Time of the Year 1736 I was seiz'd in the same Part, with almost as little Notice of its Visit as in the former, in a most terrible Manner; when it had rack'd me for about three Weeks (of my own Accord) I would go to a Bagnio,

where I was sweated, and cupped, and at the same time had a Cup fixed just before the Joint of the gouty Part, and had three or four Ounces of black grumous Blood taken from thence ; and about three Weeks after, this Fit entirely left me.

In 1737, much about the same Time, it attack'd me most dreadfully in the same Place ; infomuch, that I had little or no Rest, small Appetite, and a confus'd and restless Mind, for near a Month ; when, growing desperate, not considering any good or bad Consequence, I wou'd have a Couple of Leeches, and about Six o'Clock at Night attempted to fix them both to the Part ; but, however, one only fix'd, just upon the Joint, and fill'd himself in about a Quarter of an Hour, and then dropp'd off, and the Part continued bleeding till about eleven o'Clock that Night ; but the Pain, to the best of my Remembrance, was very little, or none at all, abated. During this Fit, which continued for near nine Weeks, I took no manner of Medicines whatsoever. From 1734 to 1737 loose Hours and hot Punch were great Favourites ; but since that Time I have liv'd pretty abstemiously. In 1738, 1739, and 1740, I had very strong Sym-

ptoms

ptoms, much about the same Season of the Year; but then, by Advice, I took such Cathartics as were directed for me; which by taking, and living pretty regular, I believe, kept it off, till 1741, when about its usual Time of Visitation, it attack'd me with more Violence than ever, in the very same Part, infomuch that for upwards of seven Weeks I believe I had not nine Hours sound Sleep, but was in continual inexpressible Torments. I then had recourse to my former Application, and fix'd a Leech upon the very pain'd Part, and kept it bleeding in warm Water for three or four Hours, but to no manner of Purpose. The following Day I was in extreme Pain in my Right Foot, and imagined, that the gouty Matter was about to fix there; but on the contrary, it fixed the next Day in my Left Wrist, and made me appear more like a Man mad, than a rational Creature; and what with the burning acute Pain in my Foot, and the more acute Pain in my Wrist, my Mind was wholly confus'd, and I appear'd to those who were then about me, the most miserable Object they ever beheld: This Fit with all its Furies lasted near eleven Weeks, before it suffered me to sleep two or three Hours at a

time; and before I could walk without Pain, and use my Wrist, it was near 20 Weeks.

It is a Custom among us Printers to claim the Advice of any Physician whose Works we are engag'd in; and, as I was employ'd in the *Medicinal Dictionary*, I made use of this Privilege, and consulted Dr. *James*, who put me into a Course of Mercurial Medicines, which I persisted in for nine Weeks, beginning the Course at the latter End of this Fit. Since that Time, I have continu'd in a perfect State of Health in every respect; and have remain'd entirely free from the Gout, except that in *April* last I had a very slight Fit, which lasted me three Days; and last *March* another, which continu'd only two.

Mr. *FRANCIA*'s CASE.

In the Year 1723, Mr. *Francia*, a Merchant in *Allen's-Court, Leadenhall-street*, was seiz'd with the Gout, which increas'ing every Year, at last arriv'd to such a Degree of Violence, as to confine him to his Bed six or seven Months in the Year, and to render him a Cripple almost all the rest. About
Easter

Easter 1743, I was first consulted about his Case; he had then been confin'd from the second of *December* preceding, to his Bed, and had during that Time been afflicted with intollerable Pain. I immediately put him into a Course of Mercurials, by the Use of which he was so much reliev'd, as to be able, in a Fortnight, to walk to the Exchange. This Gentleman's Business would not permit him to pursue his Medicines longer than he was unavoidably confin'd by the Gout; but notwithstanding, he continu'd well 'till the next *Autumn*, when he had a short, but regular Fit, and then he was prevail'd upon to repeat the Medicine which had so much reliev'd him; but so soon as he was able to get abroad, he took no more Medicines till the following *April*, when he had another Fit, which lasted about three Weeks, during which Time he took his Medicines, but left them off entirely the Moment he got abroad. Till last *December* he enjoy'd a State of Health much to his Satisfaction, being able to walk, ride, and transact his Affairs with much less Difficulty than for many years before. But sometime in that Month, he was seiz'd with a Pain in all the Joints which the Gout
us'd

us'd formerly to occupy, but by no means in so violent a Manner as formerly. Late-ly, however, he has had a pretty severe, but very regular Fit, of which he is now entirely recovered.

It is remarkable in this Case, that before he took these Medicines, his Appetite was extremely bad, and he vomited up the greatest Part of the Aliment he took; but during his Paroxysms it was almost impossible for him to keep either Wine of any Kind, Broth, or any the lightest Aliment on his Stomach. However, after taking a very few Doses of Mercury, his Appetite was greatly mended, and he was enabled to retain any Sort of Food it was thought proper for him to eat.

Upon the whole, Mr. *Francia* is not quite well; but is much better than he had been for many Years before. And he is so much reliev'd, that, I am certain, he believes he should have been still much better if he had been perswaded to pursue his Medicines in the Intervals of his Fits.

Mr.

Mr. *TRUBY's* CASE.

Mr. *Truby*, who kept the *King's-Arms Tavern* in *St. Paul's Church-yard*, a Gentleman very well known in Town, after having been several times severely treated by the Gout, was, about the seventh of *August* last, seiz'd with a violent Fit, which, as usual, confined him to his Bed with much Pain. His Affairs at that time were in such a Situation, as made him chuse to run all Hazards, rather than submit to the Inconvenience of neglecting his Business. Upon this Occasion I was not displeased to give him, at his own earnest Request, pretty large Doses of Mercury. In consequence of this he vomited twice, had half a dozen Stools, and sweat pretty much, especially on his Feet, the Parts affected. This gave him great Relief; and three Days after the same Medicine was repeated, in the same Dose, with much the same Effect. About three Doses rendered him entirely easy, and in less than ten Days he was able to go abroad, and pursue his Business. Since this Fit Mr. *Truby* has continued in a perfect State of uninterrupted Health, both with regard to the

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Gout,

Gout, and in all other Respects, infomuch, that he assures me that his Appetite, Digestion, and general State of Health have not been so good for many Years. He has, however, been so imprudent as to neglect repeating his Medicine, ever since he was able to go abroad.

Mr. *Truby* lives next Door to the two Cannisters and Sugar Loaves in *Vere-street*, by *Oxford Chappel*.

The Rev. Mr. *DARE*'s CASE.

About the Fifteenth of last *October*, I was desired to visit the Rev. Mr. *Dare*, in *Newcastle-street, Fleet-Market*. He informed me, that for many Years he had been afflicted with the Gout, by which he was always confin'd twice a Year, and sometimes more frequently, to his Bed, with the usual Pain, for six Weeks, two Months, or longer. At this time he was very hot, and in so much Pain, that he was not able to move a Foot in Bed without the utmost Torture. I immediately gave him a Dose of Mercury, which operated much in the same Manner as in Mr. *Truby*'s Case above, in consequence of which, in less than three Days he was enabled

enabled to move his Feet with very little Pain. After the second Dose he got out of Bed, and walk'd about the Room with the help of his Crutches; and after the third, he was perfectly well. But this Gentleman could by no means be prevailed upon to continue the Medicine after he was easy; for which Reason I cannot depend upon the continuance of his Health; tho' he informs me that he has ever since been perfectly well in every Respect.

Mr. *GANDON*'s CASE.

About three Years ago Mr. *Gandon*, a Gunsmith, in *New Bond-street*, apply'd to me on account of a violent Sciatic Pain, which render'd him very lame. As he is a very strong young Man, in order to make short Work of it, I gave him a considerable Dose of Mercury, which operated pretty roughly both by Vomit, and Stools; but with so good Effect, that the Pain and Lameness were the next Day entirely removed, and never afterwards return'd. He took, however, a few smaller Doses, by way of Precaution.

As these Cases are sufficient to shew in general the Effects of Mercury in gouty and rheumatic Disorders, it would be superfluous to give more, as well as tiresome to the Reader.

I have designedly avoided entering into any Theoretical Disquisitions, as being inconsistent with my Design; which was to state such well attested Facts as I have read or heard, and such as I have my self been a Witness of; and this I esteem'd my Duty, both as a Physician, and a Member of Society; nothing being more inhuman than to deprive the most miserable Part of Mankind of Relief, out of Considerations inconsistent with the Character of a Gentleman and a Christian.

I have, farther, declin'd giving particular Prescriptions; because I esteem it an high Injury to Society to furnish Emperics with Materials to destroy Mankind, by their Misapplication. By Emperics I mean all those whose Consciences permit them to trifle with the Healths, and play with the Lives of Men, without proper Educations to form their Judgments, and duly qualify them for so arduous an Undertaking; who dare to affront Providence, by daily premeditated

Murders, for the narrow Consideration of improving a private Fortune.

Every one who is well acquainted with Physic, is abundantly sensible, that the first Duty of a Physician is accurately to distinguish Diseases; and the next, to foresee the Events, and foretell the Consequences of the Disorder; for by this he is enabled to prevent the bad, and promote the good Events which are to be expected in the Course of the Distemper, without acting at Random, Empirically, and without Design; a Circumstance which must eternally happen without these Qualifications in an eminent degree. Now it is certain, that almost all that is known relative to the distinguishing Diseases, and foretelling their Events, is to be learn'd from the accurate Observations of the great *Hippocrates*, and his Copyers, as *Aretæus*, *Galen*, and some few others; and that nothing of much Importance has been added to these important Branches of Medicinal Knowledge, since the time of that prodigious Man. There are, indeed two Authors, who, in the Opinion of *Boerhaave*, are not without their Merit in this Part of Science; I mean *Prosper Alpinus* in his Book *de præsagienda Vita & Morte*, and
Du-

Duretus in his Commentaries upon the *Coacæ Prænationes* of *Hippocrates*. But even these are so embroiled with Theory, that it requires no small Judgment to distinguish solid and useful Truths from Hypothetical Chimeras, and to separate the Substance from the Shadow. So that what *Cervantes* observes of Translations, is applicable to these Imitators when compared with the original Sources, *viz.* that they are like the Backside of a Piece of Tapesty, where the Figures are, in some measure, preserved, but disguised by superfluous Threads, and disfigur'd by an uncooth Roughness of the Work. Now those whose Education have not qualify'd them for reading the Sources from whence the most essential Parts of Physic are derived, and who have never heard of, and much less perused their best Copyers, are not very likely to be acquainted with the principal Doctrines of Physic; an Art upon which Life depends, and in which a slight Error is so frequently fatal. Hence in the Chambers of the Sick, instead of Predictions, we so frequently hear of Nervous Fevers, Nervous Symptoms, Animal Spirits, and all that unintelligible Jargon, and unmeaning

ing Impertinence, which is too frequently made the *Asylum* of Ignorance, and the Refuge of Quackery and Imposture, to the infinite Reproach of true Physic, and the Scandal of the healing Art.

I must not entirely dismiss the Subject of the Gout, without taking Notice of some vulgar Errors, which have for Ages been inculcated, and which seem to be received as infallible Truths by gouty Patients. The first is, that the Gout is a salutary Distemper, as it prevent^c, or cures, all others; and that therefore any Attempt to cure it is injurious to the Patient, as it subjects him to other Distempers. This seems to be founded upon as just Reasons; as it would be to affirm that a Confinement in the Inquisition is an infallible Preservative against the Dangers of a Shipwreck, or a Battle; no Body can deny that it would have this salutary Effect; but then I believe few would chuse to be tortured, and at last burnt at a Stake, in order to avoid Misfortunes so much less dangerous and tormenting. It is well known that the Gout generally increases in Violence as the miserable Patient advances in Years, and that at last, when it arrives to a certain Pitch, it constantly destroys. And whoever
will

will take the Trouble of consulting Dr. *Musgrave's Treatise de Arthritide Anomala*, will learn, that the Gout is so far from preventing Distempers, that it is productive of all those which arise from Affections of the more noble Parts, as Apoplexies, Lethargies, Asthmas, Inflammations of the Lungs, Dropsies, Dysenteries, Ulcers in the Intestines, Palsies, and all those Disorders which are most troublesome, painful, and dangerous.

I must remark, that amongst the Vulgar in some Parts of *Scotland*, 'tis received as a certain Truth, that the Itch is a Preservative against all Distempers, insomuch that it is esteemed little less than Madness to submit to be cured; and some even carry the Farce so far as to catch it designedly, with a View of curing their Diseases. The Itch and the Gout I am persuaded are equally likely to prevent Distempers; but the Filthiness and Trouble of one, and the Pain and Danger of the other, render such Preservatives perhaps less desirable than the Diseases they are said to prevent; not to insist upon it, that the prophylactic Virtue of both the one and the other is extremely precarious, and far from being certain. Another prevailing Prejudice is, that it is impossible

the Gout and Rheumatism. 89

possible to relieve, and much more to cure the Gout. Upon this Occasion I must remark, that, supposing no Remedy has yet been discover'd capable of answering either of these valuable Purposes, it is not for that Reason certain, that there never may. But to forbid all Endeavours, is not only ridiculous but cruel, as it absolutely prohibits all farther Improvements relative to the Relief of the most excruciating Disease Mankind is subject to. Had the same Sentiments prevailed a Century ago with respect to Agues, a Disease then nearly as incurable as the Gout is at this Time, the approach of Autumn had still been dreadful to Thousands of miserable Patients; and the *American* Savages had in vain communicated to the *Europeans* their Experience of the Peruvian Bark.

Upon the whole, when Physicians insist much upon the impossibility of relieving, or even curing the Gout, they should seem to treat their Patients as *Paulo Purgante* did his Wife, when he excused himself from doing her a Favour she requested, by assuring her his Compliance would be fatal to her before the next Morning; thus disguising his Inability under the specious

Pretext of Esteem and Affection; and evading the Denial of a Favour it was impossible for him to grant; which was, however, no Evidence that no Body else could.

I will not absolutely affirm, that the Gout is curable, tho' some Facts related above seem to amount very near to a Proof that it is relievable in a greater degree than is generally imagin'd. The Reader will form a Judgment as his Reason shall direct him, without any farther Comment.

Having above taken Notice of the *Æthiops Antimonialis*, as a Medicine of much Importance, I think it incumbent upon me to remark, that this Medicine is not equally well prepared in all the Shops. It is intended as an Alterative, and, should in no degree act as an Emetic or a Purge; but within this four Months I have met with three Cases where it has operated as both to an excessive degree; and in each of these Cases the Medicine was procur'd at different Shops of no small Eminence. I am sensible that Antimonials are somewhat uncertain as to their Operation; and I once had an Instance of its acting with some Violence without any discoverable Cause.

Cause. But in the three Cases mentioned above I had reason to think the Violence of the Operation, was occasioned by the Preparation ; because the same Doses procured from Mr. Godfrey's, and exhibited to the very same Patients, neither vomited nor purg'd ; but acted as a gentle Diaphoretic only ; an Effect this Medicine ought always to have, and no other.

Perhaps it may be some Recommendation to the Method here proposed, if I solemnly affirm, that I know no Body that has been under a Course of Mercurials with a View of relieving the Gout, that is not now alive, and in much better Health than before, except one who kill'd himself by excessive drinking of Geneva, and Mr. Davis mention'd above, who dy'd of Old Age.

I shall conclude this Treatise with some Quotations which shew that I am not singular in my Opinion with respect to the Efficacy of Mercury in the Gout.

Memini hic alicujus Podagrici, qui a Lue Venerea per me secundum Methodum prædictam liberatus, postea nullo unquam tempore dolorem podagricum iterum persensit. Unde Haud male infertur Podagram & Morbum Gallicum, uno eodem-

eodemque modo posse curari. Muyz. prax. med. chir.

Lues Veneræ sola non est quæ usu Mercurialium salivam moventium sæpe pellitur tota. Capitis enim dolores, Vertigines, Manias, Epilepsias, Ulcera, Arthritides, &c. iisdem mercurialibus sublata aliquoties fuisse clarissimi Auctores testantur. Nuch. de Saliva.

In Arthritide omnium remedium potentissimum est Mercurius, &c. Mayerne de Arthritide.

Argentum vivum confert Podagræ. Cata-neuside Morb. Gallic.

Sanat sæpe illinitio ista etiam alias frigidas & Chronicas aggritudines quæ pendent a materia Phlegmatica a Prædominio, ut sunt dolores podagrici, nodi, &c. Nicol. Massa. de Morb. Gallic.

F I N I S.

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